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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/177,700	10/23/1998	STEVEN E. GARDELL	97-813	3477

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EXAMINER	
NGUYEN, HANH N	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2662	

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/177,700	GARDELL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hanh Nguyen	2662	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *Reply Brief filed on 04/28/03*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Reopening of prosecution -New ground of rejection after Appeal

In view of the Appellant's Reply Brief filed on 04/28/03, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new ground of rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the

reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-19 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by **Pang et al.** (US Pat. No. 6,298,045 B1).

In claim 1, Pang et al. discloses, in Fig.3, a communication system (communication system 50) for interacting with a switched circuit network (voice network service 58, see col.6, lines 65-67) and for providing multiple line appearances (Fig.8A, col.16, lines 20-40) at a terminal 24 (a terminal of computer network). The system (system 50) comprises a DSP 76 (a gateway) that receive incoming calls 52 (see Fig.2) and process the calls (translating circuit-switched signals) into Internet protocol format (computer network compatible signal) (the gateway operative to translate switched circuit network signals into computer network compatible signals). See col.8, lines 5-12 & lines 23-30. A Signal routing agent (processor 70, Fig.3) receives incoming calls from gateway (DSP 76, fig.3) (signal routing agent receives incoming calls from gateway). See col.12, line 60 to col.13, line 3. The incoming calls are addressed to the data terminal 24 (incoming calls addressed to a selected one of terminals). See col. 18, lines 30-60. The control of processor 70 (signal routing agent) is programmed (see col.7, lines 35-48 & col.9, lines 55-62) to display incoming calls with caller IDs 150 (signals identifying origins), multiple line displays 132 (plural line appearance signals) on data terminal 24 (Fig.8A), see col.16, lines 20-45 (signal routing agent is programmed to display plural line appearance signals that identify origins of the incoming calls to the selected terminal).

Pang et al. does not disclose the signal routing agent (processor 70) transmitting plural line appearance signals to the selected terminal. Since the processor 70 (signal routing agent) is

programmed (see col.7, lines 35-48 & col.9, lines 55-62) to display incoming calls with caller IDs 150 (signals identifying origins), multiple line displays 132 (plural line appearance signals) on data terminal 24 (Fig.8A), see col.16, lines 20-45, therefore, it is inherent that the line appearance signals that displayed on the terminal must have been transmitted from the processor 70 because processor 70 controls resources provided to terminals coupled to communication system 50 (col.18, lines 48-60).

In claim 9, Pang et al. discloses a signal routing agent (processor 70, Fig.3, col.18, lines 48-60); a DSP 76 (a gateway) being operative to translate the incoming call into computer network-compatible signals (see col.8, lines 23-28); the signal routing agent (the processor 70, Fig.3) receives the computer network compatible signals (IP packet from DSP 76, col.8, lines 15-20) identifying a terminal (terminal 24, Fig.3, col.18, lines 48-60) and to transmit line appearance messages (line display 132, Fig.8A, col.16, lines 20-40) that identify an origin of the incoming call (caller ID 150, Fig.8A) to each terminal. Pang et al. further discloses a VOIP gate keeper 25 (Fig.4, gate keeper, col.11, lines 34-40) configured in the signal routing agent (col.11, lines 1-6) to control DSP 76 (gateway) via line 84 (see col.8, lines 5-15). From DSP 76 (gateway), IP packet (computer network-compatible signals) is transmitted to signal routing agent (processor 70). See col.29, lines 15-25.

In claim 2, Pang et al. discloses, in Fig.8A, a terminal 24 comprising a window 130 (a terminal includes a user interface) configured to simultaneously display multiple lines 132 (plural line appearance messages). Each line 132 has a corresponding caller ID 150 (origins of

incoming calls) (multiple line appearance messages identifying the origins of incoming calls). See col.16, lines 22-40

In claim 3, Pang et al. discloses most of limitations in claim 1. Pang et al. further discloses, in Fig.1, the signal routing agent (key switching system 10) is in communication with the respective terminals (telephones 12, voice mail 14, see col.1, lines 45-55) and is responsive to receipt of an incoming call (fax communication from a facsimile 44) to transmit a corresponding line appearance signal that identifies an origin of the incoming call to each of the respective terminals. See col.1, lines 45-55.

In claim 4, Pang et al. discloses in claim 1 the signal routing agent (processor 70, Fig.3) is response to receipt of an incoming call (call from telephone 12, Fig.3) addressed to one of terminals (terminal 24, Fig.3), identify one of terminal (terminal 24) to receive line appearances (line displays 132, fig.8A, col.16, lines 20-40) that identify an origin of the incoming call (caller ID 150, Fig.8A). Pang et al. further discloses the signal routing agent (processor 70, Fig.3) comprising a configuration database storing terminal information (directory 27, Fig.4, col.11, lines 40-48).

In claims 6 and 13, Pang et al. discloses the signal routing agent (processor 70) comprises a call routed gatekeeper (VOIP gatekeeper). See Fig.4, col.11, lines 2-6&34-35.

In claims 7 and 12, Pang et al. discloses the signal routing agent (processor 70, Fig.3) is a call control service entity because it controls and enables services and application . See col.7, lines 35-45.

In claim 8, Pang et al. discloses the DSP 76 (gateway) processes incoming voice into IP which is controlled by the processor 70 (signal routing agent) for displaying onto terminal 24. See col.8, lines 22-28 & col.7, lines 41-46. The IP used at the terminal 24 is H.323. Therefore,

the DSP 76 (gateway) and processor 70(signal routing agent) are inherent to operate under H.323 standard.

In claim 10, Pang et al. discloses storing in the database data associating numbers of incoming calls (contact numbers) to corresponding terminals (terminal coupled to system 50). See col.16, lines 1-13. The signal routing agent (processor 70, Fig.3) has a software /hardware (programmed) to support data communications, routing (see col.9, lines 57-62) and displays line appearance (line displays 132, Fig.8A) on terminal 24. Therefore, the signal routing agent is inherent to access the database identity of terminal.

In claim 14, Pang et al. discloses the call control service entity (processor 70, Fig.3) manages various components of communication system 50. Therefore, it is a multi-point control unit as well as call manager. See col.7, lines 25-47.

In claims 15 and 17, Pang et al. discloses in claim 1 the steps of receiving plural incoming calls directed to a particular address; transmitting plural line appearance signals that identify origins of the incoming calls to each of the end-points; and displaying the plural line appearance signals at each end-point. Pang et al. further discloses a configuration database (directory 27, Fig.4) that identify at least one end-point associated with the address (See col.11, lines 40-50). In addition (claim 17), refer to Fig.13C, Pang discloses that the Internet protocol used at terminal 24 is H.323. See col.28, lines 41-50.

In claim 16, Pang et al. discloses, in Fig.9A, step of displaying comprising a scrollable list of plural line appearances. See col.18, lines 60-65.

In claim 18, Pang et al. discloses line appearance signals are transmitted approximately simultaneously. See col.15, lines 62-67.

In claim 19, Pang et al. discloses accessing the database (directory 27, Fig.4) that stores terminals information (see col.14, lines 1-15 & col.11, lines 40-50); receiving an incoming call

addressed to a particular number (col.18, lines 48-59); transmitting line appearance that identifies an origin of incoming call to the attendant (user's extension) and attendee (user's line) (see col.20, lines 30-47).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pang et al. (US Pat. No. 6,298,045 B1).

In claim 5, as explained in the rejection of claim 4, Pang et al. discloses a configuration database. Pang et al. does not disclose the configuration database comprises an association table. However, including an association table in a database for storing routing information is well-known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include an association table in the configuration database of Pang et al. ijn order to faciliate the routing of incoming calls to appropriate destination terminals.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pang et al. (US Pat. No. 6,298,045 B1) in view of Kumar et al. (Pat. 6,006,253).

In claim 11, Pang et al. discloses the at least one gate keeper (VOIP gatekeeper in the processor 70) being in communication with the DSP 76 (gateway , See col. 11, lines 34-40). Pang et al. does not disclose a second gate keeper being in communication with the at least one

gate keeper, the signal routing agent and the terminal. Kumar et al. discloses, in Fig.1, gate keeper 124 (at least one gate keeper) communicates with gateway 118. See col.3, lines 30-35. A gate keeper of LAN 140 (the second gate keeper) communicate with gate keeper 124 (the at least one gate keeper), MCU 126 (signal·routing) and terminal of LAN 140 (terminal). See col.3, lines 40-50. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to connect multiple gatekeepers, each serving a different network as suggested by Kumar et al. in the system of Pang et al. in order to expand the system and allow communications between terminals in different networks.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sassin et al.(Pat.6449260 B1) discloses Multimedia Automatic Call Distribution System.

Verthein et al. (Pat. 6487196 B1) discloses System and Method for Simulating telephone use in a network telephone System.

Galasso et al.(Pat.6 374,302 B1) discloses Method and System to Provide an Action Control Point Master Gatekeeper.

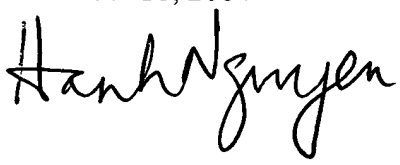
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh Nguyen whose telephone number is 571 272 3092 The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8AM to 5PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hassan Kizou, can be reached on 571 272 3088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hanh Nguyen

December 28, 2004



HANH NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER